# A GIRL'S BOOK OF PRAYERS

by Margaret Slattery

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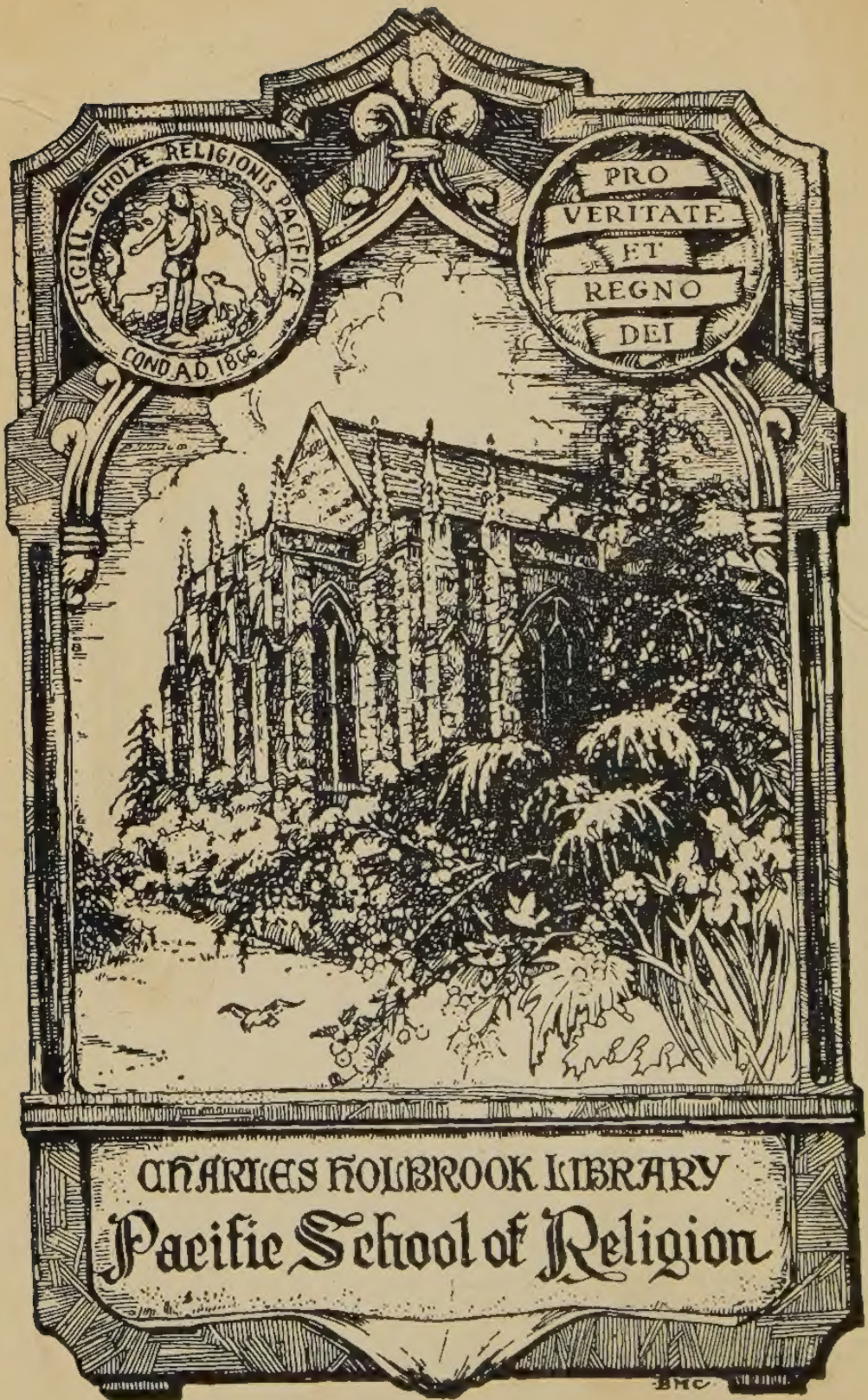
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# A GIRL'S BOOK OF PRAYERS

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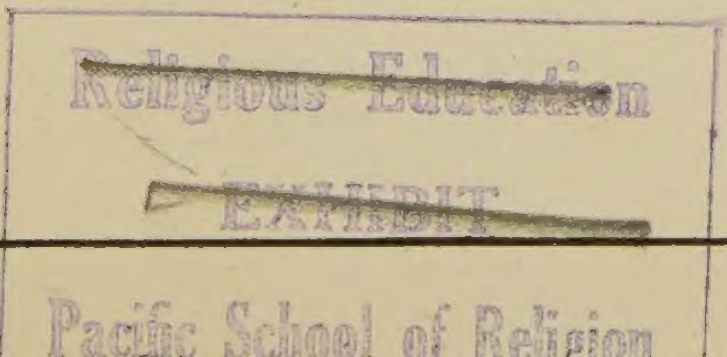
BY

MARGARET SLATTERY

THE PILGRIM PRESS

BOSTON CHICAGO



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TO MY FRIENDS

THE GIRLS

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# A GIRL'S BOOK OF PRAYERS

## A PRAYER FOR ALL GIRLS

THOU Maker of the mothers of men, look we beseech Thee in great mercy and love upon the mothers of the generations yet to be — the light-hearted, fun-loving, pleasure-seeking, hope-inspired girls of our day. Redeem them from the curse of self-indulgence, spare them from days of idle ease, guard their passions, control their lips, purify their souls. If their lot be cast in poverty's dull round of days deliver them from the temptations that like deadly beasts of prey lie in wait for girls who suffer the limitations of the poor. Raise up for them, we pray Thee, friends who, seeing the future of the sons and daughters of girls who strain weary backs and drag tired feet through

days of toil, shall protect them from the greed and short-sightedness of men.

Because of their helplessness and hopefulness, their possibilities and power, their enjoyment of life, their confidence in love, their persistent pursuit of ideals, their great need of Thee, we pray Thee in tenderness and compassion, guard our girls, and save them. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Amen.*

## A MORNING PRAYER

FOR all the good things that this new day has for me, I thank Thee, dear heavenly Father. Help me by my words and acts to show my gratitude to Thee for all Thy goodness.

Keep me, I pray Thee, from temptation and sin today and make my thoughts pure and my heart true to Thee. Give me courage and strength to bear any trial or hardship I may meet today. Teach me to be generous and thoughtful of others. I come to Thee for help to be patient, loving, forgiving, and kind as Jesus was. I thank Thee for his friendship and his great love, and in his name I pray. *Amen.*

## AN EVENING PRAYER

DEAR FATHER, I come to Thee at the close of the day to thank Thee again for Thy love. Forgive me, I pray, for all the mistakes and the sin Thou hast seen in me today, for I am truly sorry for the things in my life that I know do not please Thee. I thank Thee for Thy promise to forgive and trust me in spite of my failures.

Bless the people who need Thee all over the world and give strength and courage to all who are serving others. Bless those who are dear to me and protect them from evil, I pray Thee.

I thank Thee for Thy tender care that watches over Thy children through the night

and for Thy great gift to us in Thy Son, Jesus Christ my friend and Saviour, in whose name I pray. *Amen.*

# A GIRL'S PRAYERS FOR OTHER GIRLS

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL AWAY FROM HOME

THOU loving Friend of all who need Thee, we come to ask Thy blessing upon the friendless girl away from home, among strangers in a strange land. As alone, homesick, and filled with longing for faces that are dear and voices that speak her name she sits in some room looking out upon the hundreds that go their way with no thought of her, make her conscious that the God of her home-land is near. In the prayers of her childhood help her to find Thee a comfort and strength. Grant to her patience and courage to seek the things for which she hoped and dreamed when she

left all she loved to cross the unknown sea. In Thy mercy protect her from all who would take advantage of her ignorance and loneliness. Raise up from among the girls of this land friends for the stranger girl in their midst. Grant that as she serves them in their homes, ministers to their needs in great hotels, turns out for them from the crashing machinery of a thousand factories the things they love to wear, that they may give to her in return their sympathy and by the strength of their interest in her welfare procure for her justice and a fair chance.

O Thou, who once Thyself a stranger in a strange land, art able to understand, bless her in her loneliness and strengthen us all to consider her our neighbor and to love her as ourselves. *Amen.*

# A PRAYER FOR THE FIRST NIGHT AT COLLEGE

EAR us, we pray Thee, our Father, as we remember the girl who with thousands of others has this week left home, companions, dear familiar faces, streets over which since a little child she has traveled to church, to school, to play, that she may enter her castle of dreams — college.

When on this first night of strangeness and great loneliness the rosy dream seems gray and the longing to go back, even for a moment, to all that is dear sweeps over her soul, comfort her Thou Christ who was young and lonely and can understand. Strengthen her will; help her even in her homesickness to remember the high purpose

which has led her to college; keep her ideal unveiled before her; show her the large place of service and happiness that awaits her. Even in this moment of weakness let the knowledge that the only way by which one can comfort herself is to forget herself send her out to seek another girl as lonely as she and whisper to her that tomorrow all will be different. Give her the courage to sit down and write a word of gratitude and cheer to the father who misses her though proud that she has gone, and the mother who wishes her back yet would not have her come.

If when the lights are out and the great hall is still she cannot keep back the tears, help her to speak to Thee, to ask Thy blessing upon all whom she loves. Turn her thoughts, we pray Thee, to the days to come, the friends to be, the good times in store, the great things to be lived and learned. Thou who art Creator of a universe and the heart of a girl, give her sleep and peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL IN TRAINING

LORD, we come to thank Thee for all those who in the past have given years of their girlhood to definite training for great tasks. For the nurses, the teachers, the librarians, the social workers who spend their days in the effort to save humanity from sickness, ignorance, and sin, accept our gratitude. Grant to all girls now in training for these high and noble callings courage and patience to submit themselves to days and years of study, practise, and discipline, that they may be able better to serve the common good. Give them, we pray Thee, the calmness that comes with the forget-

fulness of self in ministry to others, the enthusiasm and joy that are the reward of those who find their own pleasure in the eager interest of youth and the shouts of childish glee.

When the days of training seem long and eager to stand alone, to test themselves, to go out into the larger world, they fret under restrictions, may the memory of Thine own long years of quiet preparation, Thou great Healer of the sick, Thou Teacher and Lover of mankind, help them to await patiently the day when, fit instruments for great tasks, they shall enter upon the work waiting for them. *Amen.*

# A PRAYER FOR THE FIRST DAY AT WORK

OUR FATHER and our Friend, we come to ask Thy special blessing upon those who today go out to join, for the first time, the great army of girls who must labor with their hands for their daily bread. May the hope for promotion and success, which stirs their souls now on this first morning, go with them through days and weeks to come, helping them to keep faithfully and steadily at their tasks, until their very faithfulness shall win for them the goal. Teach them so to use their leisure hours that there shall never be for them any days of regret and nights of tears. Shield them,

we beseech Thee, from all that can lower their ideals of dress, of speech, of thought, and of love.

We thank Thee for the noble sacrifice of countless girls who toil. As they place in a weary mother's hands the price of their week's work, as they go out with their hard-earned money to pay for food, shoes for children's feet, rent that the family may find shelter, grant that the happiness which is the reward of the self-forgetful may fill their souls. We thank Thee for all the host of girls who, working in the midst of selfishness and greed, have kept their souls pure and strong. May those who this morning start upon their first day's work choose the companions, make the friends, obey the desires that shall keep them pure in heart.

Awaken, O God, the consciences of the men and women who are employers of girls. With the keen thrust of the sword of Thy Spirit make them feel their responsibility, that no girl shall be compelled to earn, in places of danger to body or soul, her right to live.

## FOR THE FIRST DAY AT WORK

Walk by the side of the girl on her way to her first day of work to guide and protect her, we pray Thee, O Master Workman and Brother of all who toil. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHO IS DISCOURAGED

UPON all girls who this night are disappointed and discouraged, we pray for Thy blessing, Thou loving and compassionate Father of us all. If through some fault of her own, because she has failed to obey the laws that lead to happiness and success, discouragement and disappointment have come to her, inspire her heart with the knowledge that with Thee there is strength to overcome failure.

If through weakness and sin she has parted with her birthright of happiness and hope, pity her Thou strong Brother of the weak and give to her the courage to begin again.

If through the ignorance or selfishness of others she is plunged into the depths of discouragement, and bitter disappointment in all of life fills her heart, grant to her justice, O Lord. Help those who love Thee to stand together and fight with all their might against the greed that robs girlhood of its right to courage and happiness. Forgive us that, well content with our own achievements, we close our eyes to the struggle of the girl who asks only for a living wage.

Wherever in all the world there are girls whose hearts are discouraged, grant that the friendship and sympathy of other girls may give them hope. Help us all to live every day conscious of Thy presence, that when discouragement and disappointment shall come to us we may find in Thee power to triumph and be strong. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHO HAS WEALTH

EAR us, great God, our Father, as we come to pray for Thy blessing upon the girl into whose keeping Thou hast put great riches. Keep her, we pray Thee, from thoughtlessness, selfishness, and false pride. Help her to feel the responsibility which rests upon all those who have, for all those who have not. Grant to her a love for all girls and especially for those who must live their lives under the heavy pressure of needs that cannot be met. Forbid that she should give the strength of her body and mind in a ceaseless round of pleasure. Help her to overcome all the subtle temptations of the circle in which she moves and spare her the

curse of complacent satisfaction with herself. Give her eyes that see and a heart that understands the common longings, hopes, and fears of all girls both rich and poor. Save her from the mere giving of money without cost to herself. With her gifts may she give love and that true friendship which destroys jealousies and overcomes misunderstandings.

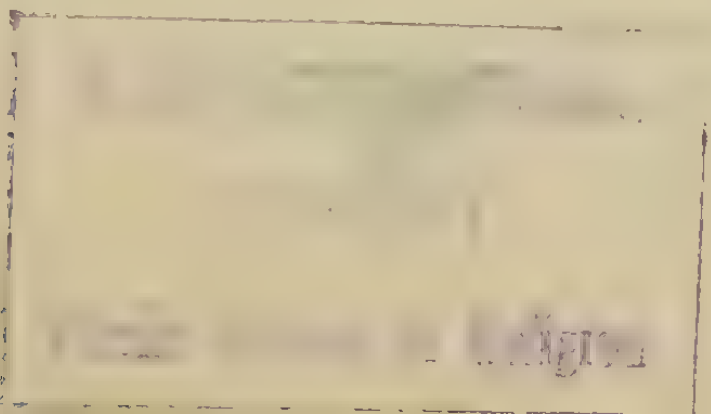
With all her possession grant, dear Lord, that she may possess the happiness which gold can never buy. Speak to her, Thou loving Christ, as Thou hast spoken in the past to those who have great possessions and grant her the wisdom to follow Thee upon Thine errands of compassion and love. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHO IS POOR

NTO Thee, the Father and Friend of those who suffer from poverty's heavy hand, we come to ask Thy blessing upon all girls who struggle against the cold of winter, the heat of scorching summer days, against hunger and sickness, discouragement and fear. Strengthen them as they toil in the hope of some day winning out in the bitter fight. Encourage them by the lives of those who, from the very depths of poverty, have climbed to places of plenty and of rich service to their fellowmen. Protect, we pray Thee, the daughters of the poor from the dangers of the street and the tempta-

tions of the selfish and wicked. Grant that the girls who struggle for a livelihood may, above everything, be kept pure in heart. Give them, we beseech Thee, success in their honest endeavor and a just reward for their efforts.

O God, help Thy servants, who profess to love Thee, to honestly seek to discover the causes for poverty and to count no sacrifice too great to pay if they may find a way by which to save their fellowmen from its deadening blight. Forgive us, we pray Thee, that having enough for ourselves, we are careless of the welfare of our neighbors. Lay upon the hearts of all who live in comfort the heavy burden of the girls who live in want and by the power of the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who having been poor can understand, help us win the victory over poverty and greed. *Amen.*



## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHO MUST GIVE UP HER PLANS

GOD, we come tonight to ask that in Thy mercy and love Thou wilt help the girl whom duty has commanded to give up her own cherished plans. Help her to know that however it may seem, it is true that Thou art ruler over all circumstances and Thou dost not plan failure for any girl. Strengthen her heart that with cheerfulness and without complaint she may accept Thy will. Save her from the fretfulness that wearies and the rebellion that destroys happiness. May the strength of character and power to help others which come from loyal devotion to duty be hers. Show her as the days pass that only in the doing

of the thing that ought to be done, can happiness be won. Grant to her friendship, the love and gratitude of those she serves, and the great joy which comes to those who do right in spite of the cost.

May the blessed Christ who in the garden laid aside his own will to follow the plan of his God walk by the side of the girl who must give up her plans, to comfort and strengthen her soul. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL TO WHOM GREAT HAPPINESS COMES

THOU who in all our experiences dost have a share, who canst understand not only the sorrows and disappointments of life but the gay laughter of little children and the joys of girlhood, we kneel to pray Thee to grant Thy blessing upon the girl into whose life great happiness has come. Now when the desires of her heart have come to her, when the things she longed for most are hers and life seems all sunshine and the future glows with promise, help her to remember Thee. As she came to Thee in her sorrow, as she knelt in Thy presence to plead for the things she wanted so much,

help her now, in gratitude for her great happiness, to come also to Thee.

Grant, O Lord, that her own happiness may not blind her eyes. May the joy that has come to her increase her sympathy for those who do not share her blessings, who must wait in patience for the fulfilling of their hopes and the answer to their prayers. May her happiness make her thoughtful of others and quick to see their need.

Help her, O Lord, to accept this gift of happiness from Thee not as a right but as a great privilege for which Thou wilt hold her responsible in the days to come. Guard and protect her, we pray Thee, as with smiles upon her face, songs upon her lips and in her heart she goes about her transformed tasks with joy. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL TO WHOM SORROW COMES

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, ruler over life and death, we come to ask Thee to remember in mercy this night the girl whose heart is filled with sorrow, from whose home and life one she loves has gone. Speak to her in her suffering and help her to bear her grief. Surround her, we pray Thee, with the sympathy of loving friends and make her sure that her bitter loss is her loved one's gain — that in the land just the other side of the dark door of death there is justice and joy where, free from all the pain and sin of earth, one may live and work and love.

Help her, O Lord, to be patient in her pain,

to trust Thee in the darkness and the mystery, to know that Thou art love and love is kind. Teach her to look forward to the day when she shall see again the face she has loved and that is hidden from her for awhile. Comfort her when she remembers the things she has left undone, the words spoken in thoughtlessness, by the knowledge that these are all forgotten and only the memories of earth's sweetness and joy can remain. Make her conscious of Thy presence, O God, not as one far away in the great unknown land, but nearer than all who love her and waiting with more tender compassion to give her rest and peace.

Grant to her, we pray, the trust of a little child who, though her face is stained with tears, can hold in the dark her father's hand and go to sleep. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL OF THE STREETS

LORD, how few of the girls who have everything reach out a helping hand to the girls who have nothing! How eagerly we go to our own good times without a thought of them! Forgive us we pray Thee, for our selfishness and show us how to help the girls who want good times and have no place to go where guarded and protected they are safe. Speak, we pray Thee, to the hearts of all who serve Thee that they may awaken from indifference and carelessness and see that girls who get their pleasure upon the city streets find it easy to do wrong. Help our city officials to care. Make them strong and courageous enough to compel

men to obey the law. Give wisdom to fathers and mothers that they may warn their girls of danger and teach them to shun temptation. Pity and pardon, we beseech Thee, the girls who have been overcome by evil, who have lost their ideals and must suffer disgrace and shame. Send them friends who shall speak to their souls and give them hope. If any girl this night is tempted to disobey the warnings of her own heart, rescue her from the power of the tempter and set her free, Thou blessed Christ, victor over all evil, friend and helper of all who sin. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL GRADUATE

REAT GOD, our Father, looking up at blue skies and out over Thy world throbbing with life and promise and beautiful with flowers, we pray for the welfare of the thousands of girls young and rich in hope who leave our schools and colleges to go bravely out into their new worlds. May they miss none of life's good things. Give them large places to fill, great opportunities to meet; success that is clean and free from the stain of injustice to another; health, happiness, and enough of wealth to lift life above the deadly grind and to share with those who need.

Grant, we pray, that in the honest seeking after these things they may not miss Thee. Meet every girl in the rush of toil, in the temptations that lurk by the way, in the leisure hours, in the far field of lonely service, and when, as the years pass, so many of them will hold their children in their arms.

O God, by the compelling power of Jesus Christ, our Lord, pursue their souls — that with something of his purpose and his passion, having received much they may give all, serving their fellows and forgetting themselves. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

EAR us, our Father, as we pray for all who have left their homes to serve Thy needy children in our own and other lands. Grant to them great joy in their work. Help them to be patient, teach them to be wise. Forgive us, the girls at home, that we so easily forget them and leave them to meet their burdens without our interest, sympathy, and help. When we remember all the things we have, that they of their own choice are denied, we are ashamed that we have not done the little things so easily done by those who care. Help us, we pray Thee, that on the holidays of the home-land, on their birthdays, we may take the time to write a word of appreciation and love to these who

are giving every day of every week to lift up and make happy those whose only claim upon them is their great need.

Grant a special blessing, we pray Thee, upon the girls who have gone this year from schools and colleges into a life of service for their fellowmen. Let nothing rob them of their courage and enthusiasm, and when hard and lonely days come, and difficulties get in the way, give them the joy of remembering that they have chosen to spend their lives in obeying the last command of our Lord and Master, and his promise to stand by them and be with them will never fail. *Amen.*

# A GIRL'S PRAYERS FOR HERSELF

## A PRAYER FOR THE SELFISH GIRL

HEAVENLY FATHER, with shame and sorrow I come to Thee to confess that I am a selfish girl, careless of others, spending all my thought upon myself. There are so many things I want for myself that I forget everyone else; there is so much I am interested in and want to do, that I forget that others have plans they long to carry out. Forgive me for the pain I cause my parents, for the disappointment I am to my friends. I am so often wretched and unhappy because of the selfishness which no one can fail to see. I know that people cannot love a selfish girl. O teach me to want to make others happy; make

me loving and kind; open my eyes to see things I may do for others.

Thou art strong, O God, and Thou canst give help to those who are weak. Help me, for I have tried so many times and failed. Make me think so often of Jesus Christ and his loving service for all that I must follow him. Save me from myself, O Lord, I pray. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WITH A TEMPER

COME to Thee in failure and disgrace, O Lord, who in Thy mercy hast promised to forgive all who repent. My heart is filled with sorrow for what I have done. O God, forgive me for the outburst of temper and the hot angry words that I have spoken. I did not really mean them, but they have been said and those who heard will not forget. How can I be forgiven for all the pain I cause those who love me and for all the trouble I make! Help me to see how little the things that provoke me, really matter. Make me remember that nothing is ever accomplished by my anger.

O teach me to think quickly of Christ when anger rises in my heart. Give me the spirit of forgiveness, the love for others that made him patient under the greatest provocation.

I am weak and I fail again and again. O God, help me to believe that Thou art able to guard my lips, to calm my anger, to give me the victory over my sin. Help me to live every day of my life as in Thy holy presence so that when temptation comes I may turn quickly to Thee and trust Thee to do for me all that I have failed to do for myself. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHO IS PROUD

GOD, who dost look into every heart and whom none can deceive for a moment, I come to Thee to ask forgiveness for my sin. O Lord, I am no better than other girls. I am selfish and sinful. And yet Thou knowest that when I see girls doing the things I have been taught not to do, when I hear their rough voices and rude speech, when I see their careless dress and bad manners, I am proud in my heart that I am not like them. I am proud of my home, my dress, my manners, my voice, of everything that makes me different from them. O Lord, help me to remember that I am what I am because

of the wisdom of those who have brought me up and the love that has surrounded me all my life. Teach me to acknowledge that there is no credit due me for voice or dress or manners. Forgive me, O God, for the little I have done with all the advantages that have been mine. Help me to see that a loud voice and bad manners are a misfortune, but that pride is a sin. Make me realize that with Thee what one really is in her heart is the only thing that counts.

O God, the loving Father of all girls, help me to see myself just as I am and save me from pride. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHO DECEIVES

FATHER in heaven, look in mercy upon me, I pray Thee, for I am a girl who deceives. I am conceited, and I am a coward, for I want people to think I am brighter and better than I am. I want them to be interested in me, I want their sympathy, and I cannot let them think me what I really am. And so, O Lord, I have deceived about my marks, cheated in my lessons, and told things that never happened. Sometimes it seems as though I could never learn to be honest. It has become so easy to lie that I hardly know when I am not speaking the truth. The burden of all my deceits is very heavy and I am weary with

trying to explain what I have said and to cover up what I have done. O Lord, Thou wilt not despise even the most sinful and so I can come to Thee asking forgiveness for all the past and for help to fight this awful sin.

Grant me the courage to speak and live the truth. O God, make me brave enough to take the consequences of my past sins and to keep my resolution to escape from deceit of every sort. Help me to trust Thy mighty strength to save me and make me true. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE EVIL

STRONG FRIEND of all who suffer temptation, I come to Thee for help. Give me, O God, the victory over the evil thoughts that so suddenly fill my mind and make me forget everything else. Impure thoughts and thoughts of jealousy, envy, and revenge destroy my happiness. I know it is true that girls who think evil thoughts find it easy to do evil deeds. It is easier for me to think about doing things I once hated. Save me, O Lord, before I yield in some moment of sudden temptation. Teach me to spend so much time and thought in doing things for others that the thoughts I hate shall have no place. Fill my mind with

thoughts of the pure and loving Christ, tender, forgiving, and kind, that he may banish everything else. Help me to trust Thee hour by hour to conquer for me the things I cannot conquer myself. Control my mind and heart, O God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE GIRL WHO PROCRASTINATES

THE memory of all the things I mean to do and never accomplish sends me to Thee in sorrow and shame, O Lord. Every day I plan so many things which are kind and thoughtful and would be of help to others, but I put them off until later and the day passes, night comes, and they are not done. It is so with all my work and with all my duties. I even put off from day to day the fight against the sins I hate. No one can depend on me, few trust me with anything to be done.

Help me to give my heart and mind to one thing until it is accomplished. Help me to heed the advice and warnings of all who love

me and teach me to live in today instead of tomorrow.

O God, be with me every hour of this day and hold me to the tasks that should be done, the lessons that should be learned *now*. Strengthen by Thy power my weak will and help me to do the things I mean to do. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

# A GIRL'S PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

## A PRAYER FOR SUNDAY

IN Thy wisdom and justice Thou hast given to us this special day in which to rest, to enjoy our beautiful world, to think of Thee and all whom Thou dost love. Forgive us, we pray Thee, that so often in carelessness and selfishness we forget Thee. On this holy day speak to our hearts and help us to remember the countless blessings Thou hast prepared for our good.

May this be a day which we shall spend as Jesus did, worshiping Thee in Thy holy temple, walking through fields and by the lake talking of Thee, doing good to all who need our help. Forbid that through our selfishness the day should be hard for others. Teach us to be considerate, kind, and just,

doing unto others on this day as on all days as we would that they should do unto us.

With glad hearts and happy faces may we present to Thee this day our offerings of money, of service, and of love. We thank Thee, great God, that our little is acceptable unto Thee and that Thou wilt bless it and us. Accept, we pray, the worship of loving hearts and the devotion of daily lives in which we remember others and forget ourselves. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

OUR FATHER we come to Thee on this first day of the new year to thank Thee for Thy love and to pray for ourselves and for all girls. Grant to us all a happy new year filled with opportunities for service. Strengthen our wills, we beseech Thee, that we may conquer the evil in our lives and triumph over our temptations. Forgive us, O Lord, for the sins which we have done. Forgive us for the many things which we meant to do and have left undone. Grant us Thy pardon for all the days of the year that has gone when we thought of no one but ourselves. We are so careless and thoughtless. O teach us to be more loving

and kind that we may be this year a blessing to our homes and to all who know us.

So often, our Father, we long to know what the new year shall bring to us. Help us to trust Thee that we may be happy and content. If the year shall bring to some girls hardships and sorrow, may they be brave to meet it with the courage that wins. If the days shall bring to some girls great joy, help them to be generous and teach them because of their own happiness to strive to make others glad.

Go with us, we beseech Thee, into every day of this year, keeping us pure in heart, true to all the highest things, that we may make our world a happier and better place in which to live. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR EASTER

OUR FATHER, we come to thank Thee for Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour on this great day of his triumph over sin and death. For the love and tenderness, the glory and power, the hope and comfort of the Risen Christ we praise Thee. May his promise "Because I live ye shall live also" take away all fear and doubt and may the message of music and flowers bring hope and cheer this day to all who sorrow.

For all girls who have lost for awhile those whom they have dearly loved we pray. Help us to bring to them some comfort through our sympathy and love. Because Thou art great and wise, because Thou knowest every girl and can give sympathy

and strength though we fail, we pray that all girls whose hearts are filled with sorrow and sick with loneliness may speak to Thee and find comfort and peace today.

For all the self-denial, for the sacrifice and suffering, for the loneliness and misunderstanding, for the courage and love by which upon this earth Jesus Christ, our Lord won for us the assurance that death is not the end of life but the beginning of freedom and joy, accept the deepest gratitude of all our hearts, O God. *Amen.*

## A PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

WITH thankfulness for Thy countless gifts to the girlhood of this fortunate land we come to Thee, our Father. Not because we have deserved it above others, have all these good things come to us, but as a responsibility, that through the girls of our land the girlhood of the world may be blest. O Lord, help us not to fail Thee in Thy plans. Accept, we pray Thee, our deepest gratitude for all the joys that come into our lives, for love and home and friends. Even for the things that are hard we owe Thee gratitude, for Thou art our friend and could permit nothing to come to us which shall not through the years work out for

our good. Help us to trust Thy love and have confidence in Thy judgment.

In grateful acknowledgment of all Thy goodness to us accept, we pray Thee, our offering of the best we have in willing service for all who need, the love of our hearts and the devotion of our lives. *Amen.*

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

GOD, my Father, looking up at the shining stars of the cold December sky I remember the patient mother and the rock-hewn manger in lowly Bethlehem, where lay cradled Thy love for the world. In the shadows of the silent stall I stand beside the Child. Speak to my soul as I wait, I pray Thee. Let the trusting, loving spirit of the Child steal into my life until it calms all anxious fears and soothes all bitterness and pain.

In willing surrender and passionate longing let me take the Christ Child to my heart, that henceforth I may live as he lived, love

as he loved, and following in his footsteps, bring help to the needy, courage to the weak, comfort to the sorrowing, and hope to the lost. *Amen.*

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